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COMMERCIALISING RESEARCH - A STRATEGIC INITIATIVE BETWEEN EPSRC AND H2O VENTURE PARTNERS LTD

EPSRC and H2O Venture Partners Ltd have entered into a strategic initiative that will enable selected Follow-on Fund projects to benefit from additional finance and the support of H2O's team of experienced technology entrepreneurs.

Follow-on Fund

EPSRC's Follow-on Fund supports the early stage of turning research outputs into a commercial proposition and so helps bridge the funding gap between traditional research grants and commercial funding. Within the framework of future calls for Follow-on Fund proposals, EPSRC and H2O have agreed to explore a funding model that will offer selected projects an opportunity to work with H2O to maximise the prospect of commercial success.

H2O involvement

Through their standard investment model, H2O will combine cash investment, to cover expenses such as branding and marketing, with dedicated commercial management. This support, in partnership with the founder scientists, the University Technology Transfer Office and other stakeholders, will help take the business through to first-round investment. In addition, EPSRC will offer a £30,000 enhancement to the standard Follow-on grant to allow additional commercially driven technical work in support of the project.

How it will work

Under this initiative, the review and selection of projects for funding by EPSRC will operate as in previous Follow-on Fund calls. Where H2O believe successful projects might benefit from this initiative, applicants will be approached to establish interest and to negotiate investment terms.

Participation in this opportunity is optional and in addition to the standard Follow-on Fund award.

For further information, please call Paul Coleman or David Kelly on: +44 (0)1865 251000 or email Info@h2ovp.com